

HINESBURG SELECTBOARD DRAFT

April 6, 2022

Attending the meeting in person; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Mike Loner, Dennis Place, Joy Dubin Grossman, Nick Baker, Eric Spivak, Natacha Liuzzi, Jackie Hickerson, Stuart Deliduka, Richard Watz, Kim Hazelrigg, George LeClair, Kristi Brown, Dan Silver, Beth A Danon, Frank Bryan, Jeremy Hulshof, Gavin Sennott, Anthony Cambridge, Caleb Casco, Ray Nails.

Attending the meeting remotely; Todd Odit, Tobi Schulman, Jennifer Decker, Colin Caulo, Kate Littlefield, Carl Bohlen, Allison Cleary, Monique Jackson, Morgen Decker, Alex Weinhagen, Becky Alford, Andrew Leise, Ali Martin, Michelle Jimmo, Miles Hickok, Jamie Osgood, Brett Grabowski, Erik Bailey, Val Spadaccini.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. via zoom

Agenda Additions or Deletions

None

Public Comment

Morgen D asked when the Board will be addressing the ambulance question. Merrily said the Police Budget is the priority at this time and the ambulance will be addressed at a future meeting.

Selectboard Forum

Phil reminded us of Green Up Day on May 7. Rocky Martin will be working alongside Phil on this. More information will be posted on FPF and the Town Website.

Phil said the Town Hall preliminary committee that is looking at structural issues and the leak in the roof met. Rocky Martin and Rolfe Kielman have joined the committee. They are working on the immediate need to patch the roof as well as creating a survey to gather information about the use of the space in Town Hall now and for the future.

Approve minutes of 3/16/22

Maggie moved to approve the minutes of 3/16/22 as amended. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

Conservation Commission Interview – Tobiah Schulman

Tobi grew up in Hinesburg and about 2 years ago moved back to Town. She has a degree in plant and soil science as well as 20 years' experience working locally in agriculture and horticulture. She has attended several meetings.

Phil moved to appoint Tobiah Schulman to the Conservation Commission for a term that expires 4/1/2023. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

Consider Acceptance of Engine #3 Replacement Proposal

34 Nick Baker said at the request of the Board he attempted to get more quotes on the replacement
35 vehicle. Nick said he did not get any responses for various reasons with the exception of another E-One
36 dealer in NY which came in \$30,000 higher than the dealer in St. Albans. Nick is requesting approval to
37 order the vehicle from the E-One dealer in St. Albans. He noted the cost has increased \$16,000 since the
38 quote he had in December which he expected and shared that with the Board at that time.

39 Merrily asked if the quote for the \$394,700 is subject to increase. Nick said the quote from 3/31/22 will
40 expire in 30 days. He cannot guarantee the cost will not go up after 30 days. Once a contract for the
41 order is put in the price is locked in.

42 Phil asked Todd what the plan is for payment of the vehicle.

43 Todd said we have \$10,000 in last year's capital budget that was transferred and there are some funds
44 in this year's budget. The capital plan has projected payments over 5 years. He anticipates using the
45 funds that have been collected for a down payment and we can do a municipal lease purchase for the
46 balance for probably 3 years.

47 Phil asked about the current engine #3. Nick said it is not on the road and will not pass inspection. We
48 have mutual aid agreements with Huntington and Charlotte for their 4 wheel drive fire engines to
49 respond.

50 Merrily moved to accept and approve the latest bid from E-One, Desorcie Emergency Products, in St.
51 Albans for a new Engine #3 for the price of \$394,700. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

52

53 Consider Approval of Fire Station Needs Assessment RFQ

54 Nick said there has been ongoing discussion on when and how do we get a new fire station. The request
55 is for a study and design to be paid for from impact fees.

56 Maggie asked why now? Nick said the station was built in 1972 and they have outgrown the station.
57 This will include space for an ambulance.

58 Phil thinks it would be appropriate in the assessment to address an assessment of the current building.
59 This will answer any questions about if the Town has considered expanding what we currently have.

60 Todd said this will provide a current figure on replacement for the fire impact fee update.

61 Dennis said we have been collecting impact fees since 2010. The amount collected is roughly \$332,000.
62 We now have \$170,000 left. He noted expenses paid from impact fees over the years. His question is,
63 who approved spending \$166,000 of impact fees on a previous design. We are now asking to spend
64 another \$170,000. This is an ongoing problem of continuing to spend money and not follow through.
65 He feels we need to have the discussion about impact fees before making a decision on this.

66 Todd said there is no intention the study would cost \$170,00. The request is to advertise for the bid.

67 Dennis asked where the plans that we already spent money on are? Todd said a big chunk of that went
68 to the failed combined police / fire services proposal.

69 Nick said he only asking for approval to get bids not to spend any money.

70 Eric S said one of the things done in the previous assessment was to see if the Tail Hook building would
71 be a good fit. It was determined that building would not work.

72 Mike asked if it would make sense to do a master plan for emergency and security services

73 Phil moved to approve advertising a Fire Station Needs Assessment RFQ. Mike seconded and approved
74 with 5 yes votes.

75 Consider Acceptance of Annual Audit Proposal

76 Todd said the Town received three proposals and recommend going with Telling and Hillman.

77 Maggie asked how long the Town worked with the previous auditor. Todd said he was not sure but 5 to
78 10 years.

79 Phil moved the Board accept the proposal from Telling and Hillman, P.C, for the annual audit. Seconded
80 by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

81 Consider Approval of Town Highway Finance Plan and Approval of the Certificate of Compliance for
82 Road and Bridge Standards

83 Phil moved the Board approve the annual Town highway finance plan and the certificate of compliance
84 for road and bridge standards. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

85

86 Consider Adoption of Affordable Housing Proclamation

87 Carl Bohlen, chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, said the month of April has been the Fair
88 Housing month in the nation and in the State for a number of years. The Committee felt it was
89 important for Hinesburg to issue a proclamation against discrimination against anyone seeking to buy or
90 rent. Carl read the proclamation which can be read on the Town website in tonight's meeting packet.

91 Maggie moved to approve the proclamation declaring April 2022 fair housing month in Hinesburg.
92 Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

93 Consider Approval of Town Highway Structures Grant Application

94 Todd said there were some engineering plans drawn up for replacement of three hydrologically
95 undersized culverts. The estimated cost of the project is \$325,000 and the grant program can provide
96 up to \$175,000.

97 Phil asked if we have a list of all the culverts noting which ones are at risk. Todd said the Town has a
98 culvert inventory but a hydraulic analysis has not been done for every culvert.

99 Dennis asked if replacement of these culverts will need to be contracted out. Todd said yes, the culverts
100 are very large.

101 Maggie asked what the chance is we will be awarded the grant. Todd said the chance is pretty good.
102 You can pretty much count on getting one about every three years.

103 Maggie moved to approve applying for a Town Highway Structures Grant for Lincoln Hill Rd culvert
104 replacement in the amount of \$175,000. Seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

105 Public Input on Draft Revised Police Department Budget

106 Merrily reminded us that we are up against a deadline as the Town needs a budget approved by the end
107 of the fiscal year, July 1, 2022. The Board realizes there is a desire for an in depth look at what we need
108 and what the police do and plan to do that in the fall. Merrily also pointed out the fact that there is
109 misinformation being shared and she will correct someone if they refer incorrectly to something.

110 Todd put together a Q&A which is on the Town website with correct figures.

111 Val Spadaccini asked about the discrepancy in the case numbers reported. The number reported for Jan
112 through Nov 18 was 1261 calls. The latest numbers show over 600 more calls to year end which is a lot
113 for that short period of time. She also noted in the strategic plan that was done the population was
114 4500. According to the 2020 census we now have only 198 more residents. We now have 3 more full
115 time officers for just 198 residents.

116 Chief Cambridge addressed the call volume explaining half the state was on one system and half on
117 another. The entire state is now on the same system. The new end of year total number includes calls
118 recorded by both systems.

119 Merrily referred to the information in the packet Todd put together which shows staffing since FY 09.
120 Todd further explained population numbers do not necessarily correlate with incident numbers.

121 Val said her personal opinion regarding the COPS Grant was that it was a rushed deal brought to the
122 Board. There really was no opportunity for good public input on it. She said, if memory serves me there
123 were Board members who were hesitant about applying for the grant and said if we apply we don't have
124 to accept it if we get it. She feels there had not been enough information about it, we now have it and
125 have to pay for it.

126 Anthony said this has been brought up multiple times. They found out about the grant at the end of
127 2019 and it was voted on at least 5 times. Multiple Selectboards voted on it, there was a preliminary
128 vote and then the usual vote and probably voted on more like 10 times. He thinks a lot of people who
129 say they had no input did not live in Hinesburg at that time. Approval to apply was voted and a couple
130 months later they voted again. Saying it was not voted on is totally inaccurate.

131 Carl B. said he takes issue with what the Chief just said. At the Selectboard meeting in the middle of
132 March, Board members and Todd made some really good comments and good reactions on how to
133 proceed. And Phil's comment, Carl feels, was right on. The voters were not really brought into it. The
134 Selectboard may have voted numerous times but at Town Meeting in 2020 there was not vote to do the
135 COPS Grant. He thinks Val said something about the COPS Grant, but we were told when he asked the
136 Chief if he was happy with the number of full time equivalents, he got the impression that he and the
137 Board thought that at that time we were fine. The Board voted in July, right in the middle of COVID, to
138 accept the COPS Grant. Carl said he honesty was not paying attention to Board meetings he was more
139 worried about COVID and his family. He said a member of the public urged the Board not to support it.
140 While it might have gone through some votes, in his mind it was really not brought before the public in
141 any major way. Carl sent questions to the Chief yesterday; he says there has not been any detailed

142 explanation why we needed the COPS Grant. It was not clear what information was provided to the
143 Board for applying for the grant, it was to be to deal with fraud of the elderly. What was the purpose of
144 the grant?

145 Jackie Hickerson said she still does not see any data to support the police force we currently have let
146 alone an increased police force. In 2021 there were 1,956 calls which means 5 calls per day. We don't
147 know how many of those calls are referrals to the Howard Center or non-emergency calls. We read
148 what is in the Citizen which have quaint stories that are funny but it is not funny. We pay a lot of money
149 and she does not want her tax dollars spent on those type of things to pay someone that kind of salary
150 to do silly things. The other thing raised was the need for more officers so officers do not go out on calls
151 alone is puzzling to her. She is a public servant, works in the field and goes to locations by herself
152 unarmed with no de-escalation training except life experience without even a taser. She is handing out
153 \$200,000 and \$300,000 tax bills which can be a volitive situation. She has been threatened and bit by
154 dogs. She would never ask tax payers to pay another bill so she could have someone accompany her
155 because she can't handle the job herself. She made the statement that there is police brutality in this
156 State based on race, according to her Vermont is one the highest states in the nation for biased traffic
157 stops.

158 Merrily pointed out in the informational packet there is information on the statistics of traffic stops by
159 Hinesburg police on race and gender.

160 Ray Nails said at the Burlington Police Department in the first race data collection done the university
161 running it said the data would be skewed because of the population. He has spent 22 years as a police
162 officer in Burlington. He said look at Burlington's problems now. His advice is to be careful what you
163 wish for. If you want to do away with and create whatever it is you want to create, incorporate and
164 include the people already doing that job in the decision making process. When Burlington first had its
165 issue, Ray contacted the mayor and asked him to lean into the problem, you have a fantastic
166 organization that is trained and a role model for other organizations. He said the only reason we have
167 cops working here is that they feel supported in this community, once that is gone no one will want to
168 work here. He loves having officers that know him by name, that his kids know. That if anything
169 happens at CVU we will all go help. We have a fantastic community, lean into it. If you want to make it
170 better, let's make it better but we have to incorporate the people that go out and put that badge on.
171 They are running toward danger.

172 Richard Watz, 30 year resident, commented about the public process and the package of information
173 put together. He has watched over time the police department in Hinesburg grow. He was at the July
174 meeting and did oppose the COPS vote to additional cops. He added none of this is in any way to
175 detract from the work the police do and the commitment they make. At some time, we really have to
176 think about what the appropriate costs are for a town this size. UVM has done a comprehensive survey
177 of all the towns in Vermont, Hinesburg is in the top 30. Towns with police departments obviously spend
178 more, there are towns the size of Hinesburg that spend less. He feels it is time to have a discussion
179 about that. He feels the voters spoke on Town Meeting and the Town needs to take into effect what the
180 voters said. Cutting the budget by 1 ½ % is not really acknowledging what people said. In a democracy,
181 unfortunately when people vote, even if it is by 1 vote that what the vote is. He does not feel the Board
182 has taken that into account. None of this is meant to be personal or about the fine work our police do.
183 The idea that we have such a limited time to talk about this, he would love to have a conversation about

184 this and has offered his resources. At the end of the day, he thinks the Board has to take into account
185 what the voters said.

186 Merrily repeated the reason we don't have so much time is the need to have a vote approved by July 1
187 and the idea that has been discussed is in the fall when there is more time there will be further
188 discussions and more time for public input. There are a lot of issues about what the people in Town
189 want regarding how many police and what the police do. The budget reduction is minimal so we do not
190 make big changes until there is time to discuss things more deeply. Richard replied saying in a public
191 hearing generally you don't respond to everything people say, but if you are going to refer to the
192 reduction, he would say the Town Manager prepared a budget with 5 police officers, that would have
193 been responsive to what the voters said. Merrily replied we then lose the COPS grant so it does not
194 reduce the budget, it is complicated.

195 Kim Hazelrigg said she was recently at a party where discussion about the police came up. One thought
196 came up that she felt was quite simple is to look at when we have these calls, put a red dot at every spot
197 the police go to and start looking at how often police are going to certain spots and figure out what is
198 going on in this area that is causing that. We need to look at the bigger picture. We can't keep paying
199 more and more taxes, we need to figure out a way to make it all work.

200 Allison Cleary said she is very frustrated by the fact that the vote was clear, the police budget was voted
201 down, and now we are being told there is no time. We have to do this in the fall and continue with this
202 large budget. She referred to the Supreme Court – if they vote 4 to 5, it is the 5 that win and the
203 decision is made. She said the voters have spoken, our taxes are outrageous in this Town and people
204 are very frustrated. To be told that we didn't say enough earlier, she was also at the July meeting and
205 argued against the COPS Grant. She has no problem with the cops we currently have, she feels the
206 Town did not need an additional police officer. She read there was a retiring police officer and this is the
207 time to release that COPS Grant and we really need to re-think this. She does not think it is fair to
208 belittle the public and say you spoke a little too late. We did not have the Town Meeting in which we
209 could have had a really robust conversation, instead we are being told we will take it down by \$15,000
210 out of \$800 plus thousand dollars, that is an insult to the public and very upsetting.

211 Miles Hickok said he is looking for some clarity. He does not understand why we don't have time; his
212 understanding is if we do not pass a budget by the end of the fiscal year we continue with the existing
213 budget. That does not sound like an emergency.

214 Merrily asked Todd to address that. Todd said that was his understanding as well but his recent reading
215 of the Statute for Australian Ballot is the Town needs to keep voting till it has a budget.

216 Miles said he agrees with some of the other comments, in particular, from this evening and he
217 personally would want to see the appropriate resources applied to the situations that arise in the Town
218 of Hinesburg. He does not feel that police are always the answer, in some cases they are the easy
219 answer and maybe that's why we got here is to just add more police. He thinks other services can be
220 brought to bear in situations that police are not appropriate.

221 Becky Alford said besides me, my husband and children are black and indigenous people of color. The
222 town citizens voting down the police budget creates an opportunity to look much more deeply at the
223 role policing plays in our community. She does not think incremental budget changes meet that

224 opportunity. She said this is not a critique of our current officers and would like us to consider the life
225 experience of black indigenous people of color is different than just looking at statistics. The major
226 question she would like to address is, does the current crime level in our community necessitate two
227 armed officers for each shift as our current budget accounts for. What would it look like for us to half
228 that number of armed officers, a separate budget line item that focuses on concerns such as mental
229 health, social welfare, more accessible medical care for vulnerable citizens? Does the entire call volume
230 need to be done by an armed force? She does not think we can discount that an armed officer showing
231 up to a scene can in itself change the dynamics of that scene. And finally, with this revised budget being
232 due by July, are we really doing enough as a Town to get to the root of why the budget was voted down
233 and what's the true intent right now of our community. If that happens in the fall, as was mentioned,
234 what does that mean for our current budget? Two and a half months seems to her quite enough time
235 for at least an initial effort, and what effort are we making to prioritize BIPOC voices in this conversation.

236 Morgen Decker said the Town voted for an ambulance and what we got was more weaponized policing.
237 She believes we need to end impunity for police in terms of violence and build accountability in our
238 Town. She wanted to step aside from speaking as herself and read the Hinesburg Racial Equity groups
239 statement – the Town Manager complied data on race and traffic stops for the year of 2021 and is
240 working on the stats for 2020 and the first quarter of 2022. They have been analyzing that. The Town
241 Manager posted on FPF from the last time the Town had 4 full time officers was 2008, crime rates in
242 Hinesburg have remained steady and Selectboard members have acknowledged in recent meetings that
243 police departments staffing increases have been driven internally by the department rather than by
244 community need and the desire to have two police officers on shift has been a driving force as well
245 which other folks mentioned is a real concern and there is no data backing that up that it makes it safer
246 for civilians. An FBI maintained data base of crimes reported by Hinesburg over the 10 years between
247 2010 and 2020 showed really low averages in terms of crime. She recommends people read the entire
248 statement in FPF. Their recommendations are terminating the COPS Grant, take the time to have
249 meaningful dialog now to transition funds toward social work and community support. Based on the
250 data reported to the FBI she re-recommends the police department have no more than 4 full time
251 officers, research and develop civil and social supports for mutual and support regionalization of these
252 same supports. Create an independent and transparent police accountability board. These are things
253 we wanted the Hinesburg Selectboard to take seriously in the months leading up to July 1.

254 Kate Littlefield said she agrees with a lot of the comments and wanted to add two things. She looked at
255 the 2008 strategic plan, she was struck by what the community wanted back then and how little of that
256 list seems to have been accomplished. She is new to the community and wanted to encourage the
257 Board to think about the votes that were done over COVID and the population of this Town is going to
258 continue to shift over the next several years, this is not going to be a stagnant area. She thinks it can't be
259 based on what was but needs to be based on what we have right now and what people are expressing
260 right now. She agrees with the caller who said it feels insulting that the budget was reduced by so little
261 when there was a clear change in what the public is wanting. And lastly, she hears a lot about
262 community policing, she has yet to have any positive interactions with our police, she has not had any
263 interactions with them and just by being really public about concerns not one time has anyone from the
264 police force reached out to her to say I hear your concerns can you tell me more about that. She feels
265 like everything she has researched about community policing that is a big part of what community
266 policing is, to reach out to constituents. She wants to de-personalize this, it is not about police, she also

267 works in the public sector and working in a school her job could also be cut and she gets it. She feels we
268 have to do some real looking at what we are actually getting and what we actually want. We did it in
269 2008 and she is worried if we wait until the fall, it will push it off even more, we will get more data and
270 what are we going to do with that. She asks the Board to reflect on the work that has been done in the
271 last 10 plus years, the progress of that your constituency is now saying we need you to take some action
272 do something different and we feel like you are not listening and that feels really hard.

273 Mike L asked why we keep saying we will not the conversations till fall? Merrily said we could just as
274 well say this summer. Once the budget is passed and the fiscal year ended, we will have more time.
275 Usually too many people are away during summer. Mike said he heard the request to act much sooner
276 than fall and also the concept of timeliness in his mind is the reason for the budget put together this
277 time around so we could get a budget out and hopefully get it passed and immediately start having
278 community conversations on what our police department should look like, what our emergency
279 department should look like rather than putting a budget together having it voted and repeating that
280 and just spending all their time trying to get a budget passed. Maggie added her thoughts were to make
281 a slight shift in the budget, run it by voters again. If it passes then move ahead and update the strategic
282 plan and figure out through conversations with the community, more input than this, and more data to
283 find out what is the right size police department for this community. We need to have really inclusive
284 conversations before we can decide that.

285 Stuart D, his wife is the owner of Element Nail Salon, said in reading the strategic plan what was not
286 taken into consideration was the business growth and types of businesses which bring in customers
287 from outside of Hinesburg. They have had nothing but positive interactions with the Hinesburg police
288 department. He said he saw some remarks about the morale of the Hinesburg police department being
289 high because of the numbers. Morale is not measured by numbers but by surveys and other measures
290 not just say morale is good because we have so many quality police officers. When you look at
291 scheduling, he would not want to be in a position to not have back up and the letter from the State
292 Police saying there won't be back up. He likes looking at what's today not 2008 and what's going to be
293 tomorrow.

294 Kristi Brown said she could probably have one of those "red dots". She is a taxpayer and between the
295 business she runs and her personal taxes she pays probably over \$50,000 so feels she does have a big
296 say. In 2008 she came face to face with someone who broke into her store, now she does not have to
297 worry about that. The police are always there before her, protecting her. To cut police we would
298 probably lose the on call night coverage. She asked if that is a liability for the Town if she gets hurt
299 because there was nobody to respond? We need to look at that also.

300 Beth Danon said she has so many questions for the police Chief and the officers. She has not had an
301 opportunity to have any interaction with them other than very little which was cordial and positive. She
302 had a question about something she saw in Town and went to the station and had a long talk with one
303 of the officers about it which was very helpful. She has no critique of the current staffing of the
304 department but does have a ton of questions which would help her as a taxpayer and voter to figure out
305 what is the right number for the Town. What are the Town needs and are we addressing them
306 adequately? She would love to see the Town police and the Town come together and have a
307 conversation. We can ask what their day looks like, what kind of calls do you go to, what happens at
308 those calls? She does not know what their day consists of and would like to have a conversation not just

309 with the public and Selectboard but the public and the people working for the department and maybe
310 even the same for the fire department and EMT's. A lot of voters feel in the dark and thinks that is a lot
311 of what the Board is hearing.

312 Merrily referred to the 2008 plan which recommends how many calls are ideal for a police officer, which
313 is between 300 and 350. Right now, with the 6 officers we have 325 calls per officer. If we have less
314 than 6 officers, she thinks Kristi is right and the first thing to go would be the night shift.

315 Beth said she does not know when referring to two officers per shift she does not know if that means
316 one officer is in the car and one at the station, if the Chief is there is that an extra one? She said there
317 are just so many questions she has. She really wants to have a conversation and build that trust to make
318 it true community policing and part of that is everybody understanding what everybody is doing.

319 Merrily said she likes that picture of a community discussion with everybody that Beth suggested and
320 thinks that is a good place to end.

321 Merrily asked Anthony if he wanted to add a final word. Anthony said it was said several times we
322 voted during COVID, he said we voted again because of COVID. The other thing he wanted to say was
323 that they had Shelburne and the State Police and other agencies helping them. They do not have that
324 anymore. They have families, they don't want to go to hot calls and wonder if they will come back and
325 see their kids. He does not understand why this Town thinks it is ok we are just going to put one officer
326 out there; it is 40 square miles and there is no back up. They need back up, so whatever the call volume
327 is they need have somebody that can help them if they are in a fight. He understands not everyone sees
328 the types of calls they see but even one call, one domestic, is enough for somebody to get hurt. He
329 wants to go home to his family; he does not know why people think it is ok for them to put themselves
330 in danger. No other profession would be ok with it but it is ok for police. That is what the grant position
331 was about, to eliminate one person shifts. If we go down to 5 it is seriously going to bring back over 31
332 person shifts and if we go down to 4, we are going to be working by ourselves permanently. They are
333 already by themselves in the middle of the night. After 9:00 at night when they are racing to a call in 40
334 square miles who is there to back them up?

335 Merrily said we will need to continue this and will talk about it as a Selectboard on how to continue. She
336 thanked everyone for their input and especially to the officers who took their time to come here
337 tonight.

338 Kate L said she feels like there were problems with this meeting she needs to address before we close.
339 Ending with the Police Chief and placing value of one voice over other voices feels incredibly harmful to
340 the people who took time away from their families, her family is sick with COVID. She works in a public
341 school and shooting numbers in schools are ridiculous, people work in mental health and plenty of other
342 fields where people put their lives on the line, we all want to go home. To end with the Police Chief who
343 has more power over other people is like the antiseptic of community policing. She is really upset that
344 the Selectboard would say they want to end on Beth's positive note and then switch over to the Police
345 Chief who just went on this thing that instills enormous amounts of fear when there is no data to back it
346 up and when plenty of people in this community work in incredibly high risk professions. And for
347 Merrily to say especially officers who showed up, she would like to thank people leaving their families
348 who came to have a discussion. This feels incredibly insulting and hope the Selectboard takes some time
349 to review their process about how they are handling these conversations because there have been a

350 number of problems with the way the meeting was managed tonight that make her concerned about
351 placing her trust in them for making any kind of a plan going forward.

352 Merrily said she is not taking further comment and pointed out she said they are not ready as a
353 Selectboard to go forward with this budget. There will be more discussion about it as they have heard
354 her and there a lot of people with a lot of questions who are upset with the Selectboard and upset with
355 the budget and the way things are with community policing in Hinesburg.

356 Allison C said less than one hour was spent on the only item in the budget that was voted down. That
357 needs to be considered along with the fact that people commenting were cut off at 2 minutes.

358 Consider Action on Revised Police Department Budget

359 No action was taken at the meeting tonight.

360 Discussion on Revised Village Design Standard Regulations

361 Alex referred to his memo answering Mike L.'s questions from the last meeting. Regarding multi-level
362 mobile homes, Alex said we are fine and this will not be a statutory issue. Regarding his questions on
363 affordability specifically the front porch requirement. Alex said the PC did not look at the cost
364 implications with this requirement. Alex said it would add considerable cost and feels it appropriate for
365 the Board to discuss that requirement further.

366 Mike thanked Alex for the conversations and noted he put a lot of work into these questions and said it
367 is timely as the Board signed the affordability proclamation earlier in the meeting. It is not the big
368 developers putting in large housing developments who will have as big an impact to them. Mike said it
369 might be a moot point as there are not many lots in this village design area but his concern is a small lot
370 with a family trying to build a house and finding out they have to add another \$15,000 to that cost so
371 they can have a porch. He wonders if there is a way to make a financial waiver. He feels it is important
372 to think about adding that kind of cost above the cost to build a house.

373 Maggie is glad Mike brought this question up, particularly with the proclamation signed tonight. Maggie
374 addressed Alex answering his question about a mobile home. Mike said this would prohibit someone
375 from putting a mobile home in the village, he does not think that is the intent. Maggie said it is about
376 density in the village which is about building up. Regarding the front porches, she did the first survey in
377 the older part of Town on how many houses had front or side porches or large porticos and pushed for
378 that in the design standards. She said it is about community and engagement. She feels it is incredibly
379 important to have that engagement, to have houses and buildings that invite engagement conversation
380 and acknowledging neighbors.

381 Phil said if the porch requirement is removed it would not need to go back to the PC.

382 Janice Osgood, resident on Mechanicsville Rd., said a front porch is nice but does not think a porch will
383 help people communicate. If Hinesburg wants to have affordable housing you need to rethink the front
384 porch requirement. Entryways will probably be closed as this is a colder climate.

385 Barb F said she would like to see the revisions sent back to the PC as they spent a lot of time discussing
386 these porches and they have their reasons for them.

387 Michelle Jimmo agrees with Janice, we live in a different society than 20 years ago. Maybe a
388 homeowner builds a front porch or garage later when they can afford it.

389 Alex reviewed the options the Board has on making any change.

390 Phil moved to strike the porch language out of the new standards and ask Alex to update for it to be
391 presented at the Public Hearing. Seconded by Mike. Phil, Mike, Merrily and Dennis in favor, Maggie
392 opposed. Motion approved.

393 The scheduled Public Hearing will be cancelled and rescheduled.

394

395 Discussion on Town's Estimated Water and Sewer Usage Rates

396 Brett Grabowski has requested the Town consider using actual historical flows for Hinesburg's allocation
397 requirements. Brett also noted the Town's high allocation fees.

398 Todd said he will speak with Wayne Elliott about a review of all rates and fees.

399 Consider Readoption of Selectboard Operating Guidelines

400 Dennis asked about item 8 – Media Relations. He was looking for clarification of what that means.

401 Merrily said she felt it should be under Public Relations.

402 Joy said this was adopted from the Town of Colchester. Her interpretation is that it refers to talking to
403 the media.

404 Dennis asked if talking to the media is different than talking to your constituents.

405 Todd said this should be included under Board Conduct. He will make the necessary change and the
406 Board can consider it at their next meeting.

407 Committee Reappointments

408 Phil moved to reappoint Oren Guttman, Charles McArthur and Bret Golan to the Trails Committee for a
409 3 year term. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

410 Town Manager Update

- 411
- the Town was awarded the grant to reconfigure the crosswalk at Lantman's.
 - 412 • the neighborhood development designation for Kelley's field has been approved.
 - 413 • the general fund loan to the Water and Sewer Fund has been paid back
 - 414 • a quote in the amount of \$7,300 was received to patch the Town Hall roof
 - 415 • sidewalk repairs received no response to advertisement for bids, they will be advertised again
 - 416 • Todd will be attending the St. George Selectboard meeting on 4/21 to discuss contracts for Fire
 - 417 and Police coverage.

418 Approve Warrants and Payroll

419 Mike moved to approve the warrants, including payroll, as submitted by the Town Treasurer and signed
420 by Merrily and Maggie. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 5 yes votes.

421 Adjourn

422 Phil moved to adjourn at 10:04 p.m., seconded by Mike and approved with 5 yes votes.

423 Respectfully submitted,

424 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board